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It seems to me we all look at Nature too much, and live with her too little.

~ Oscar Wilde
1854 – 1900
Irish Writer and Poet

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2013 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create the show, which features member's images.

Submission Guidelines:
Each current MoNEP member may submit up to 20 nature images for the show. In addition to your 20 nature shots, we would like to include images of other members in action. Submissions can be turned in to **Shawn Northrop or Michelle Jones** at the **September 17th** meeting. You may also submit your images via the MoNEP website by sending them to **share@monep.org** by **September 30th**. Instructions on resizing and submitting your images can be found in the Tips section of the MoNEP website at **www.monep.org**.

Format:
Digital submissions are required. Any slides need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images **on a CD-ROM in a folder with your name as part of the folder's title. Each individual photo file should also have your name included as part of its title.** However, no text should appear on any of the images.

Image size:
Images should be resized to **768 pixels on the longest side**. Vertical images must be sized with a height of 768 pixels and horizontal images with a width of 768 pixels. The resolution can be between 96 and 300 dpi (dots per inch). The size of each image should be less than 2.5 MB. For further information about resizing your image, please see the instructions at **www.monep.org**.

Image Release
When you submit your photographs, you are providing MoNEP with permission to use your images in the Holiday Show, in the MoNEP newsletter, on the website and in promotional materials for the club. However, you will retain all rights to your images and will be given credit for each use. Your images will only be used to promote MoNEP and the mission of the organization. They will not be sold or used in any other ways.

Tips for submissions
Please include a variety of your strongest nature photos that have not been submitted in previous years. Bear in mind that we need images from all four seasons and that we must have them by the **September 30th** deadline.

Below are a number of tips to bear in mind as you select images to submit:

1. We would like a variety of your strongest and sharpest nature subjects.
2. The more images we get, the greater our flexibility in choosing the right subjects for the show. Please provide us with as many quality pictures, up to the limit of 20, as you can.
3. Remember to include images from all seasons.
4. Only submit images you have not submitted in the past.
5. We cannot use all of the images provided, but we aim to include everyone who submits photographs.
6. In addition to your 20 images, please submit photos of yourself or other MoNEP members in the act of doing nature photography.
7. Bear in mind images submitted after **September 30th** deadline cannot be included in the holiday show.

Membership Communications

It has recently come to our attention that newly registered members have not been receiving MoNEP group emails. We sincerely apologize for this and are working to correct it. If you think you are not receiving email notices such as meeting reminders, the newsletter or other communications, please don't hesitate to contact Michelle Jones at 314-496-7616.

Member News

Members **Scott Avetta** and **Glenn Curcio** both have images in the soon to be released book, ***Missouri River Country***, by Dan Burkhardt. The book focuses on the scenery and history of the Missouri River Valley from Hermann to the Confluence and includes a section on Shaw Nature Reserve.

Lori Purk just had a solo exhibit of her photography at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The exhibit, which was Columbia Bottom's first ever, included images of birds, plants, insects and scenery and filled eight of the panels in their Visitor Center.

Clark Willett was chosen to be a guest artist at the **Fine Art Gallery** in Clayton from **August 4 to September 14**. He will also have a booth at **Scott Air Force Base** the first week in October. Additionally his work will be on display at **Red Box Boutique** at the **Foundry Art Center in St. Charles on December 6 and 7**. He will also be in three shows in **September**: **Queeny Park Art Fair, Cedarhurst Art and Craft Fair in Mount Vernon, Illinois, and Mosaics Festival for the Arts in St. Charles**.

MoNEP Exhibit at SNR

Starting earlier in September, a number of the images from the MoNEP exhibit at Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City were moved to **Shaw Nature Reserve,** where they will be on display in the **Bascom House** through **October 31st.** This exhibit, ***What's on the Menu***, is in keeping with the Missouri Botanical Garden theme for 2013, ***Food***. The exhibit at SNR emphasizes feeding relationships in nature. The Bascom House is open seven days a week from 10-4 each day.

Many thanks to Lori Purk and Christy Lonero for taking down the exhibit in Jefferson City and moving it to its present location in the Bascom House.

SNR Youth Photo Contest

MoNEP and **Shaw Nature Reserve** are co-sponsoring SNR's 2013 youth nature photography contest. ***Take A Shot!*** is open to children ages 14 and under. Entries must have been taken at Shaw Nature Reserve between **April 1st and October 15th, 2013**. All entries must be received at the SNR Visitor Center by **4 p.m. on October 15th**. The four categories are: **Flora, Wildlife, Miniature World of Nature** and **People in Nature**. Detailed contest rules and submission forms are available online at **shawnature.org** under ***Take A Shot!*** **Youth Photo Contest**.

Adobe Creative Cloud Update

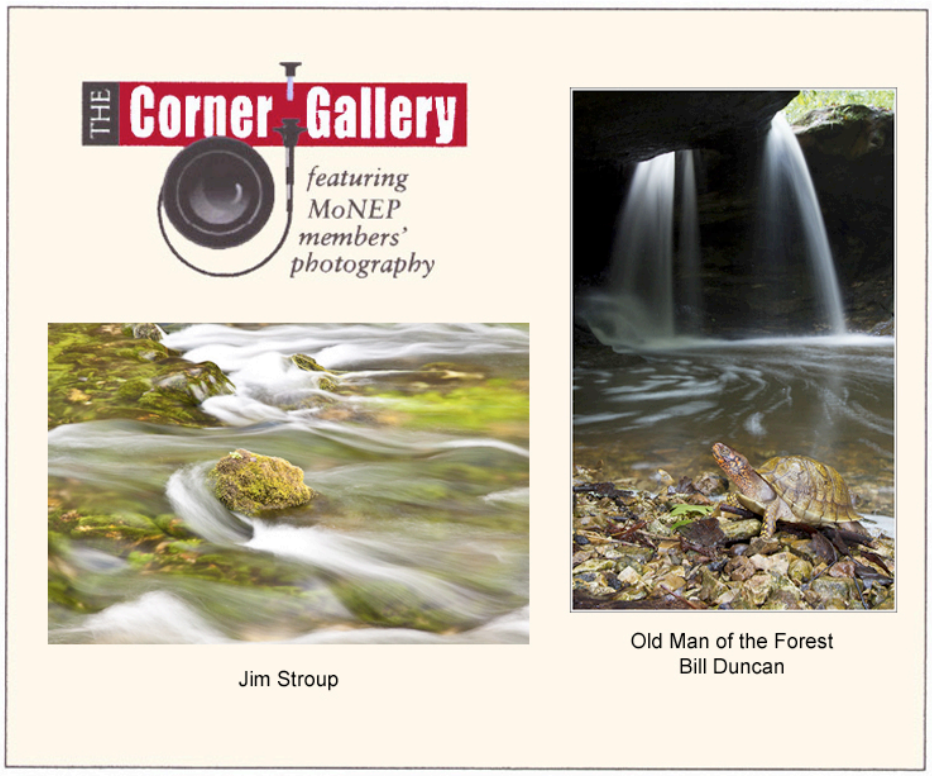
Thanks to **Dick Roman** for sharing the wonderful news that Adobe has listened to the vast amount of feedback from photographers about the *Photoshop Creative Cloud* pricing. They have announced a special offer for their loyal *Photoshop* customers. If you own *Photoshop CS3* or higher you are eligible for a special Creative Cloud membership offer. For just $9.99 per month, you can have access to *Photoshop CC*, *Lightroom 5*, 20 GB of online storage, *Behance ProSite* and their online video tutorials. This will be the ongoing price if you sign up by December 31st, 2013.

Jim Brandenburg – Shaw Photography Series

Join Shaw Nature Reserve for the kickoff of their **Shaw Photography Series: Finding your Focus** on **Friday**, **September 20th**. World-renowned nature photographer, **Jim Brandenburg** will be the featured presenter at this opening event, which will be held at the **Missouri Botanical Garden from 7-9 p.m. on the 20th.**

This unforgettable evening will showcase the exquisite nature photography of this Minnesota native, photographer and filmmaker. Mr. Brandenburg will share his stories of over 30 years of capturing the beauty of nature as he has traveled the globe. He worked for many years with National Geographic, which resulted in numerous magazine stories, several television features and many National Geographic books. He has been published in magazines such as *Time, Life, Smithsonian, National Wildlife* and *BBC Wildlife*.

The registration fee is $20 for MBG/SNR members and $24 for non-members. For more information, visit **www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/adults/classes-tours-workshops.aspx**. Registration ends on September 19th at 5 p.m.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Date, Time and Location

Tuesday, September 17: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The September meeting will be held at Powder Valley. We will have Share and Show from 6-6:30. The formal presentation will begin at 6:30.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 9/14

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **September is Curves**. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, 9/14**.

Share and Show Themes

September 17th Theme: Curves
October 15th Theme: Local Nature Photo Ops

September 17th Speaker – Mike Leahy, MDC

Join us as **Mike Leahy**, the **Natural Areas Coordinator** for the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, shares some of the best places to see and photograph Missouri's original natural landscapes. Mike is the author of the MDC publication ***Discover Missouri Natural Areas – A guide to 50 great places***, which was published in 2011. Mike's guide can help you locate and explore some of Missouri's best remaining biological, ecological and geological features. While much of that natural landscape is gone today, there are remnants that are being preserved within the MDC's system of designated natural areas. Mike will talk about some of these spots. He will also focus on areas close to St. Louis that weren't featured in the book but will be of interest to nature photographers.

His guidebook also covers the basic concepts of natural communities and describes and maps the ecoregions of Missouri, providing context for the 50 featured areas. Access to each site is described and a contact telephone number is provided for more detailed information. The guide includes easy-to-use maps, which show area roads, parking lots and established trails.

Mike has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Master of Science degree in Forestry from Michigan State University. He has worked for more than 20 years for state natural resource agencies.

July Speaker Recap

Our thanks to **Scott Avetta** for an enlightening presentation on ***Creating Strong Compositions*** at the July meeting. Some of Scott's key points were:

Subject Choices:

- Careful observation of the scene is critical.
- Base subject choice on the light and surroundings.
- When you find a scene or subject you like, work the scene from different angles.
- Evaluate and interpret the scene through the viewfinder and do most of your cropping in camera.

Things that influence composition:

- Light
- Background
- What needs to be in focus?
- Does it have mood?
- The repetition of color, shape and space can add depth to your image.

Things to bear in mind as you look through the lens:

- Edges – keep them clean
- Aperture selection - great way to control the subject within the scene
- If the subject appears vertically then shoot it vertically
- Provide some room for your subject
- Look for mergers and work hard to eliminate them
- Highlight colors and shapes
- Framing devices can be effective, e.g. trees

August Speaker – Stacey Morse

Stacey Morse, **Director of Chesterfield Arts,** and a fine art photographer presented a wonderful program, ***Developing Your Creative Vision,*** at the August meeting. Key points from her presentation included:

- Each of us has a unique vision. Don't assume that a subject that has been shot before can't be unique.
- Open your thinking. What are the different angles you can use to approach a subject?
- Take the ordinary and make it extraordinary.
- Challenging subjects can provide great opportunities
  - Fog – the absence of light and diffused scenery can be very evocative.
  - Dramatic Cloud – the sky becomes the focus
  - Horizontal Layers – give the eye the opportunity to move around. Involves the viewer in the scene.
  - Light and shadow can be very interesting
  - Grand expanses often benefit from using silhouettes of people or trees to give depth and perspective.
  - A series of elements can provide you with light, texture and form.
  - Pull back and go wide for a landscape and then go closer and try varying perspectives.
  - Monochromatic scenes can be very successful when there are textural differences within the scene.

Stacey encouraged us to explore any space we are in with our cameras. There are subjects everywhere around us, including the very ordinary, that can be the basis for wonderful images. Many thanks to Stacey for sharing her vision and her beautiful photos and providing inspiration!

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org